

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

November 17, 2011

Minutes

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
William Diehl
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney

Members Absent

Michael Stepner

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Clay Bingham
Jo-Ann Novak
Shannon Thomas
Gina Washington
Chris Zirkle

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Mr. Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2011

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell/Mr. Kinney

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Mr. Kinney to approve the October 20, 2011 meeting minutes with two revisions from Ms. Granowitz. (6-0)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Honored Tom Wood, District Manager, on his retirement from the City of San Diego on 11-11-11.
- Ms. LoMedico presented on the two parks that are on today’s agenda (Item 101).
- Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council Andrew Kahng, Board Member provided a workshop on Special Use Permits.

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Mr. Smith reported the Committee continued their discussion on Special Use Permits and Standard Operating Procedures. Some members are uncomfortable

about becoming a 501(c). (For the record Ms. LoMedico stated it is not required to be incorporated as a 501(c) just to become tax-exempt).

Balboa Park Committee

- Mr. Kinney distributed the Balboa Park Family Activity Guide. The Guide is available free at the Balboa Park Visitors Center or you may download a version from BalboaPark.org site. This Guide contains creative activities for families that are free.
- Mr. Kinney stated the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plaza de Panama will be released January 11, 2012 with a 60 day period to provide input. The Committee is planning on having a workshop for public testimony. The target date to have to City Council is June or July 2012.

Ms Granowitz asked when the plan amendments are coming to the Park and Recreation Board. (Ms. LoMedico said they will be released in late December and she will get back to Ms. Granowitz on the timeline).

Ms. Granowitz chairs a planning committee and discovered the Arizona landfill is designated as where the excavated dirt will be deposited during construction.

Design Review Committee – No Report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee – No Report

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens’ Advisory Committee – No Report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported the Cedar Waxwing is back.
- Mr. Bussell reported the main concern regarding the homicide in the canyon was the time lapse between the time of discovering homicide and the San Diego Police Department staff notifying the Park and Recreation Department staff.
- New Ranger - Andy Quinn
- Tri-Canyon Senior Park Ranger reported on clean-up at Rose Canyon and finding a large encampment with no people present.
- Proposal passed unanimously of naming education building at Tecolote Canyon in honor of Eloise Battle for decades of her contributions to the canyons

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable).

Mr. Hunrichs stated there is no permit from the Coastal Commission to lock the gate at Children’s Pool in La Jolla. The cleaning not being done at Children’s Pool and the excuse being used is there is no access for equipment to go down to the beach. It needs to be cleaned, the ramp needs to be restored, and the gate needs to be kept open.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – No Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico informed the Board there will be no Park and Recreation Board meeting in December.
- Chicano Park Steering Committee and Veterans' representatives requested an extension on bringing the proposed memorial back to the Board.
- Holiday events start the first weekend in December. Ms. LoMedico will create and send out a list of holiday events.
- December Nights kick-off on Friday, December 2, 2011.
- The annual U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots Program is starting. Many of the recreation centers are drop-off locations for toys, and the staff also registers families for distribution of toys.
- On-Line registration at Tierrasanta and Carmel Valley will go live Monday, November 28th. Department staff will be rolling out to our aquatics facilities next and then hope to roll out to the rest of the recreation centers after summer (2012).
- Mr. Reese has been appointed the interim Purchasing and Contracting Department Director as of Monday, November 14. He will transition duties to the rest of management team over the next three to four months. Mr. Reese will continue overseeing the On-Line Program.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed a list of Park and Recreation Board Meetings for the 2012 calendar.
- Home Avenue Park went to City Council in September and the Council approved the park's name change to Charles Lewis III Memorial Park.

Mr. Diehl invited all to attend the Winter Wonderland event at Hilltop Community Park on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval of Two (2) Additional Park Advisory Groups for La Jolla Parks

Mr. Bingham provided a brief presentation on two additional park advisory groups, La Jolla Shores Association and La Jolla Parks and Beaches, Inc. for a total of three parks advisory groups in the La Jolla Community.

Ms. LoMedico added that we would not have dedicated staff attending every meeting, unless the group's request we attend or to hear a particular item, and/or a need to do a report.

Board Members Questions and Comments:

Ms. Granowitz asked how this compares to other communities. She was expecting consolidation of the number of advisory groups and they seem to be going in the other direction.

Mr. Smith asked if these additional recreation councils dilute the recreation council authority.

Mr. Bussell stated currently only Community Parks I is the only one attending and participating at the La Jolla Recreation Council. If the objective of the division is to try to monitor and work with all the park facilities, would it not be appropriate for the other two organizations begin attending Community Park I or have some representation. Would this be a change to the current configuration of Community Parks I? (Ms. LoMedico stated these are not a recognize park

committee until this action. If the Board adopts this recommendation then they would be outreach to attend the Community Parks I meetings).

Mr. Smith stated this would give La Jolla three seats to vote and would be an over representation for La Jolla community.

Mr. Bussell asked if these groups could only be representatives not approvers. La Jolla could be a majority of people at the meeting. (Ms. LoMedico stated the committee is not a recognized committee in the Municipal Code only by the Park and Recreation Board as an advisory committee as a sub-committee of the Board).

Ms. Granowitz not supporting this motion she feels it is going backwards and this is inequality. She recommends putting some language in the agreement to limit Department staff time.

Mr. Bussell asked if there was discussion of joining and combining of groups. Was this an option? (Mr. Bingham stated historically there was three groups and transition to one group. The Director made it very clear to the groups that staff will not be attending every meeting only if there is an action item and requires our support).

Mr. Smith does not see the problem in creating the other two groups the question is in representation in terms of equity. (Ms. LoMedico highlighted the fact that La Jolla has a unique community plan compare to other communities. Unlike Pacific Beach Recreation Council or Santa Clara Mission Bay Recreation Council or Mission Beach Recreation Council are all specific to those recreation centers. While the Mission Bay Committee has the responsibilities of the regional asset.)

La Jolla has a lot of parks and beaches which are regional assets and they don't have a regional based community advisory group. Look at the diversity of what their advisory role are; it is significantly different.

Mr. Diehl asked if this was supported by Council District 1 Sherri Lightner. (Ms. LoMedico said yes).

Mr. Diehl asked if you have a new recreation center come on line, does that authorize an organization to separate into a new recreation council. (Ms. LoMedico said yes, pursuant Council Policy 700-42).

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Brown/Mr. Diehl

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the two (2) additional park advisory groups for La Jolla Parks and Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-2) Ms. Granowitz and Mr. Bussell opposed.

Mr. Bussell made an amendment to preclude three votes on the Community Parks I Committee. Mr. Brown would like to keep vote clean and requested the votes be implemented in the future, but did not accept amendment.

102. Carmel Mountain/Del Mar Mesa Natural Resource Management Plan

Mr. Zirkle provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Carmel Mountain/Del Mar Mesa Natural Resource Management Plan.

In Favor of Item 102

Anne Harvey
Lillian Barnes
Marvin Gerst

In Opposition of Item 102

Erik Basil	Evan Soilberger
Matthew Bartelt	John Mann
Gardner Grady	Alison Whitney (Donated time to next speaker)
Rod Simmons	Rob Mikuteit
Scott Dinscage	Paul Hoover
Seth Hanson (Donated time to next speaker)	Minette Ozaki
Andy Darragh	
Kimberly Latta (Did not speak but requested her name be read)	

Board Members Questions and Comments:

Mr. Diehl asked if the neighbors were advised of the trailhead. (Mr. Zirkle said yes he had discussion with the neighbors to the north of the planning area who do not want the trailhead and it was decided not to make the three additional trail connections).

Mr. Diehl asked if any new information from State? (Mr. Zirkle stated it is a stalemate and Mr. Randy Rodriguez, Environmental Scientist, from California Department of Fish and Game is here to speak on his agency position).

Mr. Diehl asked how the City of San Diego would go about changing the State's mind. (Randy Rodriguez, 3838 Ruffin Road, San Diego, California, 92123, supports the proposed resource management plan including the trail components for each site as proposed by the City).

Mr. Rodriguez responded to some of the above public comments:

- This area is intended to be set aside for species and habitat first. If you look at the community plan there are no trails on the eastern side of Del Mar Mesa. Any trail needs to have a community plan amendment. This was done for a reason; all access was to stay on the west side of the Mesa.
- The current plan does provide an east/west access to the north through Deer Canyon (mitigation bank).
- California Department of Fish and Game is not precluding a second east/west access route further south in terms of the large developments that are located to the east so not to end up with several redundant access routes from the east.
- The City does not have a current plan for take coverage for vernal pools. The plan today does avoid impacts to vernal pools. Once the City completes vernal pool Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is completed may look at a second access to the east.

- Another issue of additional lineage/loop/stub outs onto private property. Mr. Rodriguez understanding is these private property owners have not been consulted or talked to regarding stub outs.
- Resource Management Plan requires California Department of Fish and Game under the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) permit approval. Also, any trails that go through their property require their approval as well.
- A lot of the trails were never designated by the City of San Diego or California Department of Fish and Game. One public speaker mentioned that the trails were reduced from 16 to 7 miles in 2008 in fact there were no designated trails so basically started at zero.

Mr. Bussell concerned that we should be listening to the communities and he could not support this plan unless there is an east/west connector. (Mr. Zirkle pointed out text in the report that trails may be added to the plan in the future).

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Brown/Mr. Diehl

A motion was made by Mr. Diehl to approve the Carmel Mountain/Del Mar Mesa Natural Resource Management Plan with the condition that the City continues to work with the State to try and get a south east/west trail in. Ms. Granowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-2) Mr. Brown and Mr. Bussell opposed.

Ms. Granowitz recommended that the Mountain Bike Association and Audubon Group and other interested groups continue to put pressure on the resource agency to move the project along.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Status of Downtown Parks and Open Space

Brad Richter, Assistant Vice President – Planning, Mark Caro, Senior Planner/Landscape Architect and Tara Lake, Senior Planner, of Centre City Development Corporation provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the status of Downtown Parks and Open Space.

After a lengthy discussion on the following items Mr. Smith and Ms. LoMedico thanked all the staff at Centre City Development Corporation.

- Mr. Caro will provide the electronic version of the PowerPoint presentation to the Department.
- Mr. Caro acknowledge that comments from the Board were limited to Horton Plaza.
- The medallion representing the west end of the Santa Fe Trail (mile stone marker on the sidewalk of Plaza Street between Historic Park and Robinson May Building) is scheduled to go back into the east node of the Historical Park.
- The Bradley Building was a reconstruction of a historic building torn down with the construction of the mall and will remain on site.
- Mr. Caro stated the Westfield Corporation will be responsible for maintaining and programming the new urban plaza and historic park including conducting 200 plus events a year. There will be three kiosks for the purpose of revenue generation that would fund the programming and maintenance efforts. Any revenues above the maintenance and programming cost will be split 50/50 between Westfield and the City. These revenues will go into the capital replacement fund for the plaza.

- Cost to rehabilitate Historic Horton Park is approximately at 8 million.

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, January 19, 2012 2:00 p.m.**

**City Administration Building
Committee Room, 12th Floor
202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
Park and Recreation Director